

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

CORPORAL TIMOTHY SHOCKLEY,	:
	:
Plaintiff,	:
	:
v.	:
	C.A.No. 06-478-***
	:
GOVERNOR RUTH ANN MINNER,	:
individually; and COLONEL THOMAS F.	:
MACLEISH in his official capacity as the	:
Superintendent, Delaware State Police; and	:
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE,	:
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND	:
HOMELAND SECURITY, STATE OF	Jury Trial Demanded
DELAWARE,	:
	:
Defendants.	:

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE A FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a), plaintiff petitions the Court for leave to file a First Amended Complaint.

A. Factual Background. Plaintiff filed this case on August 4, 2006. (D.I. 1).

Following the grant of several defense requests for the courtesy of an extension of time to respond, defendants filed an Answer on January 18, 2007. (D.I. 11). A motion to dismiss was not filed.

Subsequent communications with defense counsel revealed that defendants believed that there were significant statute of limitations issues that would need to be resolved by the Court. In an effort to determine the best way to address this, on February 18, 2007, plaintiff's counsel sent a detailed e-mail to defense counsel suggesting two alternative ways to address this issue. That e-mail is attached at Tab A.

Plaintiff's first alternative involved conducting limited discovery solely on the statute of limitations issue, to determine whether the case was timely under various federal tolling principles. If it was not, the case could then be dismissed. If it was, then the case could move forward into merits discovery. Plaintiff hoped this approach would remove the necessity of several rounds of briefing and conserve scarce judicial resources. (Tab A at 1).

Plaintiff's second alternative involved filing a motion to amend the complaint, correcting several factual inaccuracies that defendants had noted, and adding specific factual allegations related to relevant federal tolling principles. (Tab A at 1).

Plaintiff raised the issue again in a March 2, 2007 e-mail to defendants. (Tab B).

Counsel for the parties spoke several times by telephone, with defense counsel ultimately indicating that a decision on how to proceed could not be reached until new Counsel to the Governor took office on March 12, 2007. Plaintiff agreed to this delay. The Rule 16 scheduling conference was later postponed for this same reason. (See D.I. 13 - letter from defense counsel to the Court; D.I. 14 - Order cancelling the Rule 16 scheduling conference).

More than two months have now passed, and there has been no response from defendants about how to proceed with either of plaintiff's two alternatives. Accordingly, out of an abundance of caution, plaintiff now files this Motion for Leave to File a First Amended Complaint, which was the second alternative in plaintiff's February 18th e-mail to defense counsel.

B. Legal Standards. “[A] motion to amend is committed to the sound discretion of the district judge.” Gay v. Petsock, 917 F.2d 768, 772 (3d Cir. 1990).

Fed.R.Civ.P. 15(a) states that “a party may amend the party's pleadings only by leave of court or by written consent of the adverse party; and leave shall be freely given when justice so

requires.” Rule 15 “embodies the liberal pleading philosophy of the federal rules.” Adams v. Gould, Inc., 739 F.2d 858, 864 (3d Cir. 1984). The Third Circuit has explained that “[t]his liberal amendment philosophy limits the district court’s discretion to deny leave to amend. Id.

In the absence of any apparent or declared reason - such as undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of amendment, etc. - the leave sought should, as the rules require, be “freely given.”

Lorenz v. CSX Corp., 1 F.3d 1406, 1413 (3d Cir. 1993) (quoting Foman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)).

C. Discussion. Plaintiff respectfully submits that his motion to amend should be granted. The parties each recognize that statute of limitations is an issue in this case. Nearly three months ago, plaintiff raised the issue of amendment with defendants in an effort to put the issue into the best posture for judicial resolution without the waste of judicial resources. Unfortunately, defendants have not yet been able to respond.

There is no evidence of dilatory motive, undue delay or bad faith on plaintiff’s part. The issue was flagged by defendants in their Answer and was promptly discussed during telephone conversations among counsel. On February 18th and then again on March 2nd, counsel e-mailed defendants in an attempt to resolve this issue and raised the amendment issue. Similarly, because plaintiff wishes to resolve this case promptly and efficiently, he suggested that the statute of limitations issue could be resolved before any merits discovery begins. Defendants will not be prejudiced by this amendment given that the statute of limitations issue still has to be resolved by the Court regardless and it is plaintiff’s hope that the allowance of this amendment might remove at least one possible round of briefing once the case begins again.

D. Conclusion. Accordingly, plaintiff submits that he has meet the standard required by

Rule 15(a) and justice requires that his motion be granted. Pursuant to Local Rule 15.1, a clean copy of the First Amended Complaint is attached at Tab C, and a copy of the First Amended Complaint which notes the changes from the original Complaint is attached at Tab D.

Respectfully Submitted,

THE NEUBERGER FIRM, P.A.

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
THOMAS S. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#243)
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#4440)
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 655-0582
TSN@NeubergerLaw.com
SJN@NeubergerLaw.com

Dated: May 3, 2007

Attorneys for Plaintiff

LOCAL RULE 7.1.1 STATEMENT

Counsel certifies that on February 18th and on March 2nd, he e-mailed defense counsel about plaintiff's desire to amend the complaint and this issue was discussed in at least one telephone conversation in that same time frame. Additionally, on May 2nd, counsel contacted defense counsel again by both telephone and e-mail (Tab E) to determine defendants' position on this Motion. However, as of the time of this filing, I have not yet heard back from them.

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQ.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephen J. Neuberger, being a member of the bar of this Court do hereby certify that on May 3, 2007, I electronically filed this **Pleading** with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Barry M. Willoughby, Esquire
William W. Bowser, Esquire
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP
The Brandywine Building, 17th Floor
1000 West Street, P.O. Box 391
Wilmington, DE 19899-0391
BWilloughby@ycst.com
WBowser@ycst.com

Ralph K. Durstein III, Esquire
Department of Justice
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ralph.Durstein@state.de.us

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQ.

Shockley/PLEADINGS/Motion to Amend.final

Tab A

Stephen J. Neuberger

From: Stephen J. Neuberger
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 11:06 AM
To: Stephen J. Neuberger
Subject: FW: Shockley v. Minner

From: Stephen J. Neuberger [mailto:SJN@NeubergerLaw.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2007 3:56 PM
To: Barry Willoughby (YCST)
Subject: Shockley v. Minner

Barry,

Following up on our brief telephone conversation on Friday. I took a look at Rule 12(c) and I don't think it meshes with what we talked about. So before we waste time with various motions, lets see if we can cut a few steps out of the process.

You indicated that defendants believe plaintiff's case is time-barred under the statute of limitations, and that the dates alleged in plaintiff's complaint are not accurate. Defendants attached various documents to their Answer in this regard, but did not file a motion to dismiss.

I indicated that plaintiff has no problem briefing the statute of limitations matter and that we believe that the case would be timely under federal tolling principles such as equitable tolling.

I asked how you wanted to proceed and you thought that defendants would want to rest on the pleadings, so a motion for judgment on the pleadings under Rule 12(c) would be appropriate.

Having reviewed the rule, I don't believe that it resolves the issue we're trying to get at. Regular motion to dismiss rules will apply to such a motion, so with the fact dispute between the dates in the complaint and answer, I think the case would survive.

But with the addition of the attachments to defendants' answer, it would safe to say your motion will be converted into one for summary judgment. Plaintiff will need discovery on the tolling issues in order to address and rebut these additions to the record, which will result in a Rule 56(f) motion and affidavit being filed.

So I see two options. The first is my preference.

(1) Why don't we short-circuit some of this and see if we can come up with a stipulated order of some kind, allowing limited discovery on the statute of limitations issue and then allow the court to decide whether the case goes forward or goes away.

If the tolling requirements are not met, then it cuts all this short. If they are, than we can proceed with regular merits discovery.

I believe we have a Rule 16 scheduling conference coming up in the near future. If we can get this worked out and the papers drafted prior to then, we can talk to the Magistrate about it. Given that such an approach would conserve resources by not opening everything up, I wouldn't think the Court would have a problem with it.

(2) An alternative approach would be to make a motion to amend the complaint, correct any inaccurate dates, and add various tolling allegations. But I see this as adding several unnecessary levels of briefing vs. the first approach which would cut to the quick of the issue.

Let me know your thoughts.

-Steve

Stephen J. Neuberger, Esq.
The Neuberger Firm
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801-3707
Phone: 302-655-0582
Fax: 302-655-9329
E-Mail: SJN@NeubergerLaw.com

Tab B

Stephen J. Neuberger

From: Stephen J. Neuberger
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 2:39 PM
To: Barry Willoughby (YCST)
Subject: Shockley

Barry,

The Rule 16 teleconference is scheduled for next Friday. Is it safe to assume you will be covering it for the defense? If so, what number will you be at?

Where are we at on the statute of limitations / limited discovery issue that we addressed in prior e-mails?

Although the Court did not order it, I suspect we should submit something in writing to the Court by Wednesday. If not a proposed Rule 16 Scheduling Order, then perhaps a joint letter letting the court know what we are thinking about how to get the statute of limitations issue resolved.

I had a scheduling conference with Judge Thynge in another matter in the last week or so, she noted that under the Magistrate statute, absent the consent of the parties, she is not empowered to decide case dispositive motions, which is what the statute of limitations issue could end up being.

I think it would be advisable for us to catch up by phone on Monday or Tuesday to try to hash some of this out. Will you be around? We can fulfill our Rule 26 meet and confer obligations then as well.

Have a nice weekend.

-Steve

Stephen J. Neuberger, Esq.
The Neuberger Firm
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801-3707
Phone: 302-655-0582
Fax: 302-655-9329
E-Mail: SJN@NeubergerLaw.com

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

CORPORAL TIMOTHY SHOCKLEY,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	C.A.No. 06-478-***
	:	
GOVERNOR RUTH ANN MINNER,	:	
individually; and COLONEL THOMAS F.	:	
MACLEISH in his official capacity as the	:	
Superintendent, Delaware State Police; and	:	
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE,	:	
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND	:	Jury Trial Demanded
HOMELAND SECURITY, STATE OF	:	
DELAWARE,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

1. This is a civil action to remedy intentional gender discrimination by the Governor of the State of Delaware which proximately lead to the failure to promote plaintiff to the rank of Sergeant. Plaintiff seeks detailed judicial inquiry under intermediate or strict scrutiny analysis to insure that his personal right to equal protection of the laws is upheld, that discrimination odious to our nation's principles of equality is halted and an award of compensatory and punitive damages and injunctive relief because of invidious gender discrimination against him. The Governor has denied plaintiff's right to be free of gender discrimination in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Plaintiff was vetoed for promotion to the rank of Sergeant on the orders of the Governor because he was a male and she wanted a female to head her security detail. Plaintiff has direct and circumstantial evidence that animosity towards men was the reason the Governor vetoed his promotion.

I. JURISDICTION

2. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1333(a)(3) and (4), 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The cause of action arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The claim arose in this judicial district.

II. THE PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Delaware.

4. Ruth Ann Minner is currently the duly elected female Governor of the State of Delaware having assumed office in January, 2001. She is sued only in her individual capacity for money damages and other relief.

5. Colonel Thomas F. MacLeish is currently the Superintendent of the Delaware State Police and its highest ranking officer. He is sued only in his official capacity for injunctive relief.

6. Defendant Division of State Police, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, State of Delaware (“State Police”) is an agency of the State of Delaware, which is only joined in this action for purposes of collecting attorneys’ fees and costs.

III. FACTS GIVING RISE TO THE ACTION

7. Plaintiff is a 14 year veteran of the State Police. He currently holds the rank of Corporal 2 and is assigned to patrol at Troop 5 in Bridgeville, Delaware.

8. He previously served on the Governor’s Executive Protection Service Unit from December 2000 to May 2005, where he distinguished himself. He also graduated from the Dignitary Protection School in June 2001.

9. In 2001 he tested for promotion to the rank of Sergeant and he was found to be qualified. He then was placed on promotion Band D.

10. In September 2003 now retired Colonel L. Aaron Chaffinch decided to promote three

corporals from Band D to the rank of Sergeant: (A) plaintiff, who was being promoted to become the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (“NCOIC”) of the Executive Protection Service Unit, which protects the Governor; (B) Douglas B. Hudson, who was being promoted to road sergeant; and (C) Harlan R. Blades, who also was being promoted to road sergeant.

11. In September 2003 Chaffinch and now retired Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, James L. Ford Jr., met with the Governor to obtain her approval for these three promotions.

12. Neither Chaffinch nor Ford told plaintiff or anyone else that they had decided to make a promotion to fill the long vacant NCOIC position of the Executive Protection Service Unit (“EPSU”). Instead, the decision was made to not tell anyone until after the promotion had been approved by the Governor.

13. The Governor then vetoed the promotion of plaintiff and stated “Not in this Unit you’re not. I have the first female Executive Protection leader and that’s how its going to be.”

14. At the time a less qualified and unpromotable female Trooper, not found on promotion Band D, was serving as the acting NCOIC of the Unit. The Governor was referring to this female, who at the time was the only female serving as an Executive Protection head for any Governor in the entire United States.

15. Thereafter, neither Chaffinch, Ford nor the Governor told anyone about this conversation. Instead, a decision was made to hide the true reason for this promotion not being made and to continue to allow this unpromotable female Trooper to continue in her capacity as the acting NCOIC of the EPSU.

16. A conscious decision was made to keep the very existence of the promotion and the true reason for it not being made from all those in the DSP out of fear of: causing discontent in

the ranks; upsetting the Delaware State Troopers Association; causing a gender discrimination lawsuit; and receiving negative publicity in the Delaware media.

17. As a result, the promotion band on which plaintiff was located was allowed to expire in December 2004.

18. Eventually that female Trooper tested for Sergeant after the existing Band D expired at the end of December 2004. She then was promoted by the Governor to Sergeant in August of 2005 and became the permanent female NCOIC of the Unit which protects the Governor. But, unlike plaintiff, she never has graduated from the Dignitary Protection School, which Standard Operating Procedures of the Delaware State Police make a job requirement for the position of NCOIC of the Unit.

19. Thereafter, and immediately prior to Chaffinch's retirement from the DSP in April or May of 2005, plaintiff contacted Chaffinch and asked him why he had never been promoted above the rank of Corporal despite his outstanding qualifications and service record in the DSP.

20. Due to his pending retirement from service and troubled conscience, Chaffinch decided to come clean and explain to plaintiff the true reason he had never been promoted.

21. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff the previously unknown fact that in September 2003, the decision had been made to fill the long vacant NCOIC position in the EPSU.

22. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff the previously unknown fact that in September 2003, the decision had been made to promote plaintiff into this long vacant position because of his outstanding qualifications and service record in the DSP.

23. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff what the Governor had stated at the meeting discussed above.

24. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff that the Governor had vetoed his promotion because

he was a male Trooper and that she explicitly stated that she had wanted a female Trooper as the NCOIC of the EPSU.

25. Plaintiff was both shocked and surprised upon learning this.

26. This conversation in April or May of 2005 was the first time plaintiff had ever discovered, learned of or even suspected the existence of this promotion to the position of NCOIC of the EPSU.

27. This conversation in April or May of 2005 also was the first time plaintiff had ever discovered, learned of or even suspected that he had not received it because of his gender.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of the defendants as detailed herein, plaintiff has suffered lost wages, earnings and benefits, he will suffer diminished earning capacity and receive less pension and other benefits now and upon his retirement, decreased employment and earnings opportunities, and other pecuniary losses, emotional pain, suffering, disappointment, anger, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, mental and physical pain, anguish, humiliation, embarrassment, injury to reputation, and other non-pecuniary losses and injury.

IV. ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS' CONDUCT

29. The individual defendant's actions violated clearly established federal constitutional rights of which any official would have known, including decades of Third Circuit case law prohibiting gender discrimination against public employees.

30. At all times material hereto the individual defendant participated in, authorized, and sanctioned the federal constitutional deprivations described above.

31. At all times material hereto the individual defendant and her agents were acting under color of law. The federal constitutional deprivations described herein are fairly

attributable to the State.

32. The actions of the defendants and their agents or employees were deliberately, intentionally, willfully, purposefully, and knowingly done in violation of federal constitutional rights and because of the exercise of those rights.

33. The defendants either knew or showed a negligent or reckless disregard for the matter of whether their conduct violated federal constitutional rights.

34. Their actions were outrageous and taken with evil motive, in bad faith, out of personal animus and without any reasonable grounds to support them.

35. Their actions were wanton and malicious or taken with reckless indifference to federal constitutional rights.

36. The exercise of rights under the U.S. Constitution made a difference in all actions adverse to plaintiff.

37. The exercise of these rights was a motivating, substantial or determinative factor in all actions adverse to plaintiff.

38. The defendants did not reasonably believe that the actions they took were necessary to accomplish any legitimate governmental purpose.

39. The defendants' actions were motivated by bias, bad faith, and improper motive.

40. The defendants' actions constitute an abuse of governmental power.

41. The defendants' actions do not further any narrowly drawn important, substantial or compelling governmental interest.

42. The defendants' actions are not so reasonable as to further any governmental interest asserted and do not closely fit the goal of serving those governmental interests.

COUNT I (PROMOTION)

43. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 - 29 set out above.

A. DIRECT EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

44. Plaintiff has direct evidence of gender discrimination against him. Such statements or other evidence reflect a discriminatory bias against male employees who attempt to head the Executive Service Protection Unit for a female Governor. They provide direct evidence that the decision maker placed substantial negative reliance on an illegitimate criterion in reaching the challenged decision.

45. Alternatively, impermissible gender based factors, as well as permissible factors, were considered in the decision making process.

46. Plaintiff is within a protected gender group, that is, he is male.

47. His promotion was vetoed.

48. His gender was the motivating, determinative or even the sole reason why he was not promoted.

49. The defendants cannot prove by a preponderance of the evidence that if they had not used gender based or suspect classifications they still would not have promoted plaintiff.

B. PRETEXT ANALYSIS

50. Plaintiff was qualified for promotion to Sergeant and to be the NCOIC of the Unit.

51. At all times material hereto he was a diligent, honest, and loyal employee who always performed his job in an exemplary manner.

52. Plaintiff sought promotion to Sergeant.

53. A vacancy for promotion to sergeant existed.

54. Plaintiff is male.

55. The promotion was vetoed by a female Governor so that she could ultimately place a

less qualified female in the position for which plaintiff had been selected.

56. Any legitimate non-discriminatory reason offered by the defendants for their actions is a pretext for intentional and purposeful discrimination based on gender. Any reason offered by the defendants is unworthy of credence since plaintiff can demonstrate such weaknesses, implausibilities, inconsistencies, incoherencies or contradictions in the proffered legitimate reasons that a reasonable fact finder can rationally find them unworthy of credence and hence infer that the defendants did not act for the asserted non-discriminatory reason.

57. Alternatively, plaintiff can demonstrate pretext because the natural probative force of all direct and circumstantial evidence establishes that it is more likely than not that a motivating or determinative cause of the adverse employment actions was the gender of the plaintiff.

(a). CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND DIRECT EVIDENCE OF INTENT

58. The circumstantial and direct evidence of intent proves invidious discriminatory purpose.

59. There are numerous examples of direct evidence which through words or actions reveal the discriminatory purpose of the Governor in favoring a female employee for the promotion at issue. For example, the statement found in paragraph 12 above, by its context and inflection, reflects discriminatory animus against males.

60. Additionally, the specific sequence of events leading up to the challenged promotion also evidences discriminatory intent.

61. Also, in the handling of this promotion there were departures which occurred from the normal procedural sequence.

62. Moreover, the female who was ultimately promoted into the position at issue had markedly less educational qualifications for the job.

63. Her promotion even violated the written Standard Operating Procedures of the Delaware State Police because she did not possess an educational certificate in dignitary protection, with related training.

64. Given the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable fact-finder could conclude that the defendants intentionally treated plaintiff less favorably than others because of his gender.

65. Plaintiff was illegally denied a promotion because of his gender.

66. Plaintiff's constitutional right to the equal protection of the law and to be free of gender discrimination has been denied under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

Wherefore, plaintiff prays that the Court:

- I. Enter judgment against the defendants.
- II. Enter a declaratory judgment declaring the acts of the defendants to be a violation of plaintiff's constitutional rights.
- III. Enter a judgment against the individual defendant for compensatory damages, including lost wages, back pay, pension and other benefits, for future or front pay, loss of earning capacity, emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, and injury to reputation.
- IV. Enter a judgment against the individual defendant for punitive damages.
- V. Issue a mandatory injunction directing defendant MacLeish to promote plaintiff immediately to the rank of Sergeant in the Delaware State Police.
- VI. Award front pay until plaintiff can be promoted.
- VII. Issue a reparative injunction directing that upon retirement plaintiff's pension and other benefits be calculated as if he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2004.
- VIII. Issue a reparative injunction directing that the Governor place a signed document in plaintiff's personnel file indicating that he was qualified to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant, in 2004, and that but for illegal conduct by the Governor he would have been promoted to that rank on that date, and apologizing to plaintiff

for violating his constitutional rights.

- IX. Enjoin the defendants from retaliating against plaintiff.
- X. Award plaintiff attorney's fees, costs and pre and post judgment interest for this action.
- XI. Require such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

THE NEUBERGER FIRM, P.A.

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
THOMAS S. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#243)
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#4440)
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 655-0582
TSN@NeubergerLaw.com
SJN@NeubergerLaw.com

Dated: May 3, 2007

Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephen J. Neuberger, being a member of the bar of this Court do hereby certify that on May 3, 2007, I electronically filed this **Pleading** with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Barry M. Willoughby, Esquire
William W. Bowser, Esquire
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP
The Brandywine Building, 17th Floor
1000 West Street, P.O. Box 391
Wilmington, DE 19899-0391
BWilloughby@ycst.com
WBowser@ycst.com

Ralph K. Durstein III, Esquire
Department of Justice
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ralph.Durstein@state.de.us

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQ.

Shockley/PLEADINGS/First Amended Complaint.final

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

CORPORAL TIMOTHY SHOCKLEY,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	C.A.No. 06-478-***
	:	
GOVERNOR RUTH ANN MINNER,	:	
individually; and COLONEL THOMAS F.	:	
MACLEISH in his official capacity as the	:	
Superintendent, Delaware State Police; and	:	
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE,	:	
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND	:	Jury Trial Demanded
HOMELAND SECURITY, STATE OF	:	
DELAWARE,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT

1. This is a civil action to remedy intentional gender discrimination by the Governor of the State of Delaware which proximately lead to the failure to promote plaintiff to the rank of Sergeant. Plaintiff seeks detailed judicial inquiry under intermediate or strict scrutiny analysis to insure that his personal right to equal protection of the laws is upheld, that discrimination odious to our nation's principles of equality is halted and an award of compensatory and punitive damages and injunctive relief because of invidious gender discrimination against him. The Governor has denied plaintiff's right to be free of gender discrimination in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Plaintiff was vetoed for promotion to the rank of Sergeant on the orders of the Governor because he was a male and she wanted a female to head her security detail. Plaintiff has direct and circumstantial evidence that animosity towards men was the reason the Governor vetoed his promotion.

I. JURISDICTION

2. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1333(a)(3) and (4), 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, and the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The cause of action arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The claim arose in this judicial district.

II. THE PARTIES

3. Plaintiff is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Delaware.

4. Ruth Ann Minner is currently the duly elected female Governor of the State of Delaware having assumed office in January, 2001. She is sued only in her individual capacity for money damages and other relief.

5. Colonel Thomas F. MacLeish is currently the Superintendent of the Delaware State Police and its highest ranking officer. He is sued only in his official capacity for injunctive relief.

6. Defendant Division of State Police, Department of Safety and Homeland Security, State of Delaware (“State Police”) is an agency of the State of Delaware, which is only joined in this action for purposes of collecting attorneys’ fees and costs.

III. FACTS GIVING RISE TO THE ACTION

7. Plaintiff is a 14 year veteran of the State Police. He currently holds the rank of Corporal 2 and is assigned to patrol at Troop 5 in Bridgeville, Delaware.

8. He previously served on the Governor’s Executive Protection Service Unit from December 2000 to May 2005, where he distinguished himself. He also graduated from the Dignitary Protection School in June 2001.

9. In 2001 he tested for promotion to the rank of Sergeant and he was found to be qualified. He then was placed on promotion Band D.

10. In September [2004] 2003 now retired Colonel L. Aaron Chaffinch decided to

promote three corporals from Band D to the rank of Sergeant: (A) plaintiff, who was being promoted to become the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (“NCOIC”) of the Executive Protection Service Unit, which protects the Governor; (B) Douglas B. Hudson, who was being promoted to road sergeant; and (C) Harlan R. Blades, who also was being promoted to road sergeant.

11. In September [2004] 2003 Chaffinch and now retired Secretary of the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, James L. Ford Jr., met with the Governor to obtain her approval for these three promotions.

12. Neither Chaffinch nor Ford told plaintiff or anyone else that they had decided to make a promotion to fill the long vacant NCOIC position of the Executive Protection Service Unit (“EPSU”). Instead, the decision was made to not tell anyone until after the promotion had been approved by the Governor.

13. The Governor then vetoed the promotion of plaintiff and stated “Not in this Unit you’re not. I have the first female Executive Protection leader and that’s how its going to be.”

14. At the time a less qualified and unpromotable female Trooper, not found on promotion Band D, was serving as the acting NCOIC of the Unit. The Governor was referring to this female, who at the time was the only female serving as an Executive Protection head for any Governor in the entire United States.

15. Thereafter, neither Chaffinch, Ford nor the Governor told anyone about this conversation. Instead, a decision was made to hide the true reason for this promotion not being made and to continue to allow this unpromotable female Trooper to continue in her capacity as the acting NCOIC of the EPSU.

16. A conscious decision was made to keep the very existence of the promotion and the

true reason for it not being made from all those in the DSP out of fear of: causing discontent in the ranks; upsetting the Delaware State Troopers Association; causing a gender discrimination lawsuit; and receiving negative publicity in the Delaware media.

17. As a result, the promotion band on which plaintiff was located was allowed to expire in December 2004.

18. Eventually that female Trooper tested for Sergeant after the existing Band D expired at the end of December 2004. She then was promoted by the Governor to Sergeant in August of 2005 and became the permanent female NCOIC of the Unit which protects the Governor. But, unlike plaintiff, she never has graduated from the Dignitary Protection School, which Standard Operating Procedures of the Delaware State Police make a job requirement for the position of NCOIC of the Unit.

19. Thereafter, and immediately prior to Chaffinch's retirement from the DSP in April or May of 2005, plaintiff contacted Chaffinch and asked him why he had never been promoted above the rank of Corporal despite his outstanding qualifications and service record in the DSP.

20. Due to his pending retirement from service and troubled conscience, Chaffinch decided to come clean and explain to plaintiff the true reason he had never been promoted.

21. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff the previously unknown fact that in September 2003, the decision had been made to fill the long vacant NCOIC position in the EPSU.

22. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff the previously unknown fact that in September 2003, the decision had been made to promote plaintiff into this long vacant position because of his outstanding qualifications and service record in the DSP.

23. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff what the Governor had stated at the meeting discussed above.

24. Chaffinch explained to plaintiff that the Governor had vetoed his promotion because he was a male Trooper and that she explicitly stated that she had wanted a female Trooper as the NCOIC of the EPSU.

25. Plaintiff was both shocked and surprised upon learning this.

26. This conversation in April or May of 2005 was the first time plaintiff had ever discovered, learned of or even suspected the existence of this promotion to the position of NCOIC of the EPSU.

27. This conversation in April or May of 2005 also was the first time plaintiff had ever discovered, learned of or even suspected that he had not received it because of his gender.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the actions of the defendants as detailed herein, plaintiff has suffered lost wages, earnings and benefits, he will suffer diminished earning capacity and receive less pension and other benefits now and upon his retirement, decreased employment and earnings opportunities, and other pecuniary losses, emotional pain, suffering, disappointment, anger, inconvenience, mental anguish, loss of enjoyment of life, mental and physical pain, anguish, humiliation, embarrassment, injury to reputation, and other non-pecuniary losses and injury.

IV. ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS' CONDUCT

29. The individual defendant's actions violated clearly established federal constitutional rights of which any official would have known, including decades of Third Circuit case law prohibiting gender discrimination against public employees.

30. At all times material hereto the individual defendant participated in, authorized, and sanctioned the federal constitutional deprivations described above.

31. At all times material hereto the individual defendant and her agents were acting

under color of law. The federal constitutional deprivations described herein are fairly attributable to the State.

32. The actions of the defendants and their agents or employees were deliberately, intentionally, willfully, purposefully, and knowingly done in violation of federal constitutional rights and because of the exercise of those rights.

33. The defendants either knew or showed a negligent or reckless disregard for the matter of whether their conduct violated federal constitutional rights.

34. Their actions were outrageous and taken with evil motive, in bad faith, out of personal animus and without any reasonable grounds to support them.

35. Their actions were wanton and malicious or taken with reckless indifference to federal constitutional rights.

36. The exercise of rights under the U.S. Constitution made a difference in all actions adverse to plaintiff.

37. The exercise of these rights was a motivating, substantial or determinative factor in all actions adverse to plaintiff.

38. The defendants did not reasonably believe that the actions they took were necessary to accomplish any legitimate governmental purpose.

39. The defendants' actions were motivated by bias, bad faith, and improper motive.

40. The defendants' actions constitute an abuse of governmental power.

41. The defendants' actions do not further any narrowly drawn important, substantial or compelling governmental interest.

42. The defendants' actions are not so reasonable as to further any governmental interest asserted and do not closely fit the goal of serving those governmental interests.

COUNT I (PROMOTION)

43. Plaintiff repeats and realleges paragraphs 1 - 29 set out above.

A. DIRECT EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

44. Plaintiff has direct evidence of gender discrimination against him. Such statements or other evidence reflect a discriminatory bias against male employees who attempt to head the Executive Service Protection Unit for a female Governor. They provide direct evidence that the decision maker placed substantial negative reliance on an illegitimate criterion in reaching the challenged decision.

45. Alternatively, impermissible gender based factors, as well as permissible factors, were considered in the decision making process.

46. Plaintiff is within a protected gender group, that is, he is male.

47. His promotion was vetoed.

48. His gender was the motivating, determinative or even the sole reason why he was not promoted.

49. The defendants cannot prove by a preponderance of the evidence that if they had not used gender based or suspect classifications they still would not have promoted plaintiff.

B. PRETEXT ANALYSIS

50. Plaintiff was qualified for promotion to Sergeant and to be the NCOIC of the Unit.

51. At all times material hereto he was a diligent, honest, and loyal employee who always performed his job in an exemplary manner.

52. Plaintiff sought promotion to Sergeant.

53. A vacancy for promotion to sergeant existed.

54. Plaintiff is male.

55. The promotion was vetoed by a female Governor so that she could ultimately place a less qualified female in the position for which plaintiff had been selected.

56. Any legitimate non-discriminatory reason offered by the defendants for their actions is a pretext for intentional and purposeful discrimination based on gender. Any reason offered by the defendants is unworthy of credence since plaintiff can demonstrate such weaknesses, implausibilities, inconsistencies, incoherencies or contradictions in the proffered legitimate reasons that a reasonable fact finder can rationally find them unworthy of credence and hence infer that the defendants did not act for the asserted non-discriminatory reason.

57. Alternatively, plaintiff can demonstrate pretext because the natural probative force of all direct and circumstantial evidence establishes that it is more likely than not that a motivating or determinative cause of the adverse employment actions was the gender of the plaintiff.

(a). CIRCUMSTANTIAL AND DIRECT EVIDENCE OF INTENT

58. The circumstantial and direct evidence of intent proves invidious discriminatory purpose.

59. There are numerous examples of direct evidence which through words or actions reveal the discriminatory purpose of the Governor in favoring a female employee for the promotion at issue. For example, the statement found in paragraph 12 above, by its context and inflection, reflects discriminatory animus against males.

60. Additionally, the specific sequence of events leading up to the challenged promotion also evidences discriminatory intent.

61. Also, in the handling of this promotion there were departures which occurred from the normal procedural sequence.

62. Moreover, the female who was ultimately promoted into the position at issue had

markedly less educational qualifications for the job.

63. Her promotion even violated the written Standard Operating Procedures of the Delaware State Police because she did not possess an educational certificate in dignitary protection, with related training.

64. Given the totality of the circumstances, a reasonable fact-finder could conclude that the defendants intentionally treated plaintiff less favorably than others because of his gender.

65. Plaintiff was illegally denied a promotion because of his gender.

66. Plaintiff's constitutional right to the equal protection of the law and to be free of gender discrimination has been denied under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

Wherefore, plaintiff prays that the Court:

- I. Enter judgment against the defendants.
- II. Enter a declaratory judgment declaring the acts of the defendants to be a violation of plaintiff's constitutional rights.
- III. Enter a judgment against the individual defendant for compensatory damages, including lost wages, back pay, pension and other benefits, for future or front pay, loss of earning capacity, emotional distress, humiliation, embarrassment, and injury to reputation.
- IV. Enter a judgment against the individual defendant for punitive damages.
- V. Issue a mandatory injunction directing defendant MacLeish to promote plaintiff immediately to the rank of Sergeant in the Delaware State Police.
- VI. Award front pay until plaintiff can be promoted.
- VII. Issue a reparative injunction directing that upon retirement plaintiff's pension and other benefits be calculated as if he had been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2004.
- VIII. Issue a reparative injunction directing that the Governor place a signed document in plaintiff's personnel file indicating that he was qualified to be promoted to the

rank of Sergeant, in 2004, and that but for illegal conduct by the Governor he would have been promoted to that rank on that date, and apologizing to plaintiff for violating his constitutional rights.

- IX. Enjoin the defendants from retaliating against plaintiff.
- X. Award plaintiff attorney's fees, costs and pre and post judgment interest for this action.
- XI. Require such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

THE NEUBERGER FIRM, P.A.

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
THOMAS S. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#243)
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQUIRE (#4440)
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 655-0582
TSN@NeubergerLaw.com
[SJN@NeubergerLaw.com](mailto: SJN@NeubergerLaw.com)

Dated: May 3, 2007

Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Stephen J. Neuberger, being a member of the bar of this Court do hereby certify that on May 3, 2007, I electronically filed this **Pleading** with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Barry M. Willoughby, Esquire
William W. Bowser, Esquire
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP
The Brandywine Building, 17th Floor
1000 West Street, P.O. Box 391
Wilmington, DE 19899-0391
BWilloughby@ycst.com
WBowser@ycst.com

Ralph K. Durstein III, Esquire
Department of Justice
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
Ralph.Durstein@state.de.us

/s/ Stephen J. Neuberger
STEPHEN J. NEUBERGER, ESQ.

Shockley/PLEADINGS/First Amended Complaint.final

Tab E

Stephen J. Neuberger

From: Stephen J. Neuberger
Sent: Wednesday, May 02, 2007 2:02 PM
To: 'Willoughby, Barry M.'
Cc: William Bowser (YCST) (wbowser@ycst.com); Ralph Durstein; Thomas S. Neuberger
Subject: Shockley v. Minner
Attachments: Shockley - First Amended Complaint.final (marked version).pdf

Barry,

Following up on my February 18th and March 2nd e-mails to you and our previous telephone discussions about how to proceed with addressing the statute of limitations issue and the issue of plaintiff amending his complaint.

With the passage of so much time and no response from the new Counsel to the Governor, I believe my client will be prejudiced if we delay any further. Accordingly, tomorrow I will file a motion for leave to file a First Amended Complaint, correcting various factual errors and also adding the specific tolling allegations we previously discussed.

Attached to this e-mail is the marked up version of the First Amended Complaint required by Local Rule 15.1 that I will be attaching to my motion.

Please let me know if you consent to this amendment by 9am tomorrow. If you do, I will prepare a quick stipulation for filing, after which I'll file the amended complaint. I will follow up this e-mail with a phone call as well.

-Steve

Stephen J. Neuberger, Esq.
The Neuberger Firm
Attorneys and Counsellors at Law
Two East Seventh Street, Suite 302
Wilmington, DE 19801-3707
Phone: 302-655-0582
Fax: 302-655-9329
E-Mail: [SJN@NeubergerLaw.com](mailto: SJN@NeubergerLaw.com)